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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

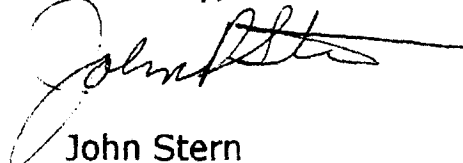
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinion about the recent antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the US Department of Justice. In light of the recent terrorist attack and the ongoing war on terrorism, I think it is absurd that nine states continue to bring lawsuits against Microsoft in a case that seemed unjust from the start.

The settlement is too harsh to begin with since entering into third party exclusive distribution agreements have never been a problem in the past. Also, disclosing internal interfaces that Microsoft spent a lot of time and money to develop is a violation of their intellectual property rights.

I urge your office to free up Microsoft to allow them to focus on business. This will serve the public's best interests because only our strong industry leaders can rejuvenate economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stern", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

John Stern